

Message Text

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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3594

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING JUNE 27, 1974: NETHERLANDS PERM REP
STATEMENT

NETHERLANDS PERM REP (HARTOGH) MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT
THE JUNE 27 DPC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED
FUTURE NETHERLANDS FORCE STRUCTURE.

BEGIN TEXT.

CLARIFICATION AND CHANGES IN THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE PLANS
AS INTRODUCED SINCE THE FIRST PRESENTATION ON 21ST MAY, 1974.

I. MBFR

WE HAVE DECLARED THAT WE INTEND TO CONFORM WITH THE AGREED NATO
POLICY ON MBFR AND SUSPEND THE PLANS FOR REDUCTIONS IN THE STRENGTH
OF THE ARMY SO LONG AS THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED
THE DESIRED RESULTS. TH ADDITIONAL FUNDS WHICH MAY BE NEEDED TO
IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION WILL BE FOUND BY INTRODUCING SUPPLEMENTARY
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BUDGETS IF AND WHEN NEEDED.

II. FIFTH MOBILISABLE DIVISION

WE HAVE STATED THAT, CONTRARY TO TH ORIGINAL PLANS, THE FIFTH MOBILISABLE DIVISION WILL NOT BE DISBANDED, BUT ON THE CONTRARY BE FULLY MECHANISED. THE FUNDS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION WILL BE FOUND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THROUGH SAVINGS IN THE BUDGET. THESE SAVINGS WILL, HOWEVER, NOT AFFECT ANY AREA OF INTEREST TO NATO. THEREFORE, NO MODERNISATION OR INVESTMENT PLANS AS PROPOSED IN TH WHITE PAPER WILL BE AFFECTED. IN A MUCH AS SAVINGS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT, ADDITIONAL FUNDS WILL BE PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

III. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

WE RECOGNISE THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FINALISE THEIR ASSESSMENT OF OUR PLANS. I HAVE THEREFORE BEEN AUTHORISED TO STATE TODAY THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT, WITHIN TH GENERAL POLICY OUTLINE OF TH WHITE PAPER, IS PREPARED TO STUDY FURTHER THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE EMANATED FROM THE NATO CONSULTATION AND TO TAKE THESE INTO ACCOUNT WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

IV. HAWK

IN VIEW OF THE CONCERN WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED OVER THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF SOME OF OUR HAWK UNITS FROM GERMANY, I HAVE NOW BEEN AUTHORISED TO STATE THAT CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION TO WHAT EXTENT AND IN WHICH WAY THIS CONCRN CAN BE ELIMINATED.

V. FINANCES

FEAR HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THE RATE OF INFLATION ESTIMATED IN THE DEFENCE PROPOSALS IS TOO LOW AND THAT IN PARTICULAR WAGES MIGHT INCREASE FASTER, WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN INVESTMENTS. I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID DURING OUR LAST MEETING, TO WIT THAT IF WAGES WOULD RISE FASTER THAN FORESEEN, THE DEFENCE BUDGET WOULD BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVRALL BUDGET, IN THE SAME WAY AS THE BUDGETS OF ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

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END TEXT. RUMSFELD

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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